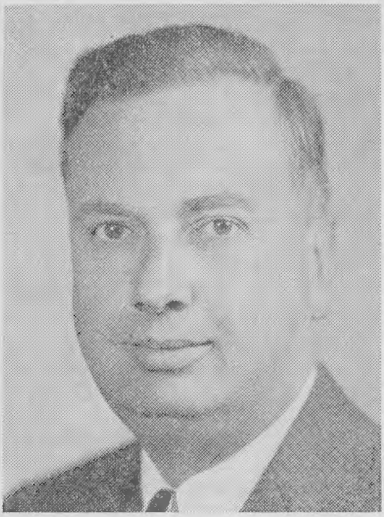
THE PARISH MESSENGER

News of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America

VOL. 7 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA No. 2

67th ANNUAL CONVENTION IN LUNDAR



DR. FRANKLIN CLARK FRY
President of the U.L.C.A.

THE REV. E. H. FAFNIS
President of the Icelandic Synod.

THE REV. E. H. KNUDTEN
Official delegate of the U.L.C.A.

THE REV. J. FREDRIKSSON
Host pastor at Lundar.

THE PARISH MESSENGER

News Journal of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America.

Printed Quarterly in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Rev. ERIC H. SIGMAR, Editor.
Glenboro, Manitoba.

Convention at Lundar

All roads will lead to Lundar on Thursday, June 21st, where at 7:30 p.m. (Standard Time) the 67th Annual Convention of our Icelandic Lutheran Synod will convene in the Lutheran Church. The host pastor, Rev. J. Fredriksson will conduct the opening service, with Dr. H. Sigmar, of Blaine, Wash., in the pulpit. After the service, President E. H. Fafnis of Mountain will declare the convention opened. Pastor Harald Sigmar of Gimli will be convention chaplain.

Friday morning sessions will begin at 9 a.m. with the President's annual report, and also reports of other officers and committees. The evening program at 7:30 will feature the address of The Rev. E. H. Knudten, president of the New Jersey Synod, and official delegate of the United Lutheran Church. Business sessions will continue on Saturday; and at the evening gathering President Fafnis will bring a message in Icelandic, and Mr. N. O. Bardal, synod treasurer, will speak in English. Musical items will be presented by the host people of Lundar.

On Sunday there will be services in the churches of the parish, and in other near-by points. Sunday evening at 7:30 we will be privileged to hear an address by the President of our United Lutheran Church, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, who will speak of his recent trip around the world, and the challenges that face our Church.

Monday morning election of officers and committees will be held, and concluding business sessions will bring the convention to a close.

The good people and pastor of Lundar are busy with preconvention planning and arrangements. We look forward to being with them from June 21st to 25th.

Lutheran Women's League Meets at Langruth

The 27th annual convention of our Lutheran Women's League was held in Langruth, Man., June 1, 2 and 3. Twenty-nine official delegates from 16 of the 22 member women's groups of our Synod were in attendance. Present also were 18 members of standing committees, which with other personnel made a total delegation of 56. There were also present many visitors.

Synodical pastors present and taking part in the sessions were: Dr. R. Marteinsson, The Rev. S. Olafsson, and The Rev. S. Sigurgeirsson.

Special addresses were delivered at the evening programs by the following women: Mrs. R. E. Emmett, Winnipeg; Mrs. Ragnhildi Guttormson, Winnipeg; Mrs. Hrund Skulason, Geysir; Mrs. Ingibjorg Olafsson, Selkirk; and Mrs. Gudbjorg Kristjansdottir, a guest from Iceland.

Vocal solos were given by Mrs. Unnur Simmons of Winnipeg, and Miss Ingibjorg Bjarnason. A number of the residents of the Langruth community entertained with both vocal and instrumental music. Both business sessions, and evening programs were largely attended.

The major project of the LWL is Sunrise Lutheran Camp, which is under their ownership and supervision. Much of the discussion centered around this splendid camp which is such a valuable asset in the Christian training of our young people. Mrs. Ingibjorg Olafsson, Selkirk, is Camp Director.

Other business items were dis-

(Continued on Page 8)

Cavalier Congregation Begins Second Year . . .

The United Lutheran Church of Cavalier, North Dakota begins the second year of its membership in the Icelandic synod as a larger, more mature congregation. The year that has passed since its admission into the synod has brought experience, growth, hope, and conviction to this band of Christians.

The best indication of the growth of this congregation is found in the number of members. The confirmed membership has grown, in one year, from sixty-three to ninety-nine. Most of the new members have come out of the community itself, a few have been transfers, and a few from last years confirmation class. As we begin this next year we have a large list of prospective members, a class of adults receiving instruction prior to church membership, and faith that God will provide many more opportunities for growth.

Other indications of growth may be found in the organizations of the church. Our very active Ladies Aid has thirty members and has accomplished much in the short time of its existence. It has procured two large coffee urns, two stoves, fifty place settings of silver, and has ordered one hundred place settings of china for the furnishing of the church kitchen. The Aid meets regularly twice a month and its program is aimed not only at the material growth, but also the spiritual edification and education of its members and the members of the church.

The Sunday School has been growing rapidly also. Last year we had twenty-three pupils, now we have sixty-two; our teaching staff has grown from five to ten. The Sunday School teacher's clinic held by Miss Gillstrom and Rev. Reese in Mountain was very helpful to our teachers. One result of that clinic has been the arrangement of a course of study for the teachers; they will meet regularly, once monthly, to pursue that course.

The men in our congregation are in the process of forming a Lutheran Brotherhood. The immediate purpose for this group will be the organization of labor donated by the men of our congregation for the erection of our church building. When that work is finished the Brotherhood will be kept busy in working with the young people of our congregation, promoting church attendance, building church membership, maintaining the property of the church, and ushering at our worship services.

The most remarkable aspect of the picture here is the church building itself. The congregation was able to purchase a building in good condition with a seating capacity of approximately two hundred, including pews, altar, pulpit and baptismal font for $1,750. We have moved it from its former location to our lot in Cavalier, which is in a good location. At present we are waiting for plans from the architect of the Board of American Missions, so we can go ahead with the building of a basement, a new tower, and remodeling the interior. In the meantime we have purchased a furnace and have obtained cement to be used in the building of the basement.

Various gifts have been given to the congregation: a gift of $75 from the Synod convention last year, hymnals from the Board of American Missions, a beautiful silver Communion service from a couple in the congregation, and now a gift has been offered of either a painting or a statue for our altar.

As we count our material blessings, however, we do not forget their real source. We thank God for the privilege of building His church and working in His Kingdom. His Son is our dearest possession.

Stefan T. Guttormsson,
Student Pastor.

News Flashes from the Parishes . . .

A Sunday School has been organized at Husavick Church, with 26 children registered, and four teachers in addition to Pastor H. S. Sigmar who instructs the confirmation class. Meetings are held regularly every Sunday at 1 p.m. English services are held every other Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and on those Sundays the Sunday School all stays for church in place of the usual assembly.

Extensive repairs are planned on the Selkirk Church during the summer, some of which have been accomplished already; a new furnace is to be installed. A committee of 16 members has been conducting a house to house canvas to augment funds for this purpose with splendid success.

Joanne Evangeline, eldest daughter of The Rev. and Mrs. J. Fredriksson of Lundar, Man., was united in marriage to Vivian Hugh Aimeg, son of the late C. Aimeg and Mrs. Edith Aimeg of Deloraine, Man., on the 17th of March in the Lutheran Church at Lundar. The father of the bride, Rev. J. Fredriksson, officiated.

Recently the congregation at Blaine, Washington, purchased a five room cottage which is now being decorated and repaired and will serve as the congregation's parsonage. Dr. and Mrs. H. Sigmar will move into the home, which is just two doors from the church, in late July.

English services are held regularly every Sunday evening at 7 p.m. in Gimli. They will be continued throughout the summer months without fail. Arrangements have been made for supply preaching for those Sundays that Pastor Sigmar will be away. Occasional Icelandic services will also be held at a different hour. In the last six weeks there have been two Icelandic services conducted at 8 p.m. But those who desire to attend Icelandic services more frequently are urged to visit the services at Betel which are held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

On Thursday, May 17th, 38 members of the Women's Association of First Lutheran Church, accompanied by their pastor, Mr. Eylands, made a trip to Gimli by chartered bus to visit "Betel". They brought with them refreshments for both body and soul for the enjoyment of the residents at the home. A short program was held, which included opening devotions by Betel's pastor, H. S. Sigmar; remarks by Pastor Eylands and Mrs. Victor Jonasson, president of the W.A.; songs by Mrs. Unnur Simmons, recitation by Mrs. Lauga Johannesson, and words of thanks by Mrs. Tallman, matron of the home.

Since the beginning of the year, thirty adult members, and thirteen children have joined the membership of Selkirk Lutheran Church.

Confirmation services were held in all four churches of Argyle Lutheran Parish by Pastor Eric Sigmar since Whitsunday, May 13th. Those confirmed are: Clare Anderson, Velma Bjornson, Margaret Helgason, Margaret Myrdal, Harvard Heidman and Beverley Taft of Glenboro Church; Marjorie Anderson, John Davidson, Peter and Clifford Reykdal of Immanuel Church, Baldur; Claire Johnson and Leonard Johnson of Frikirkju Church, Bru; and Anna and Lilja Breidal of Frelsis Church, Grund. All four services were largely attended with special music and beautiful floral decorations. Also since Whitsunday Pastor Sigmar has baptized ten infants in the parish, many of the baptisms being held at the services of Confirmation.

The following young people were confirmed in the Lutheran Church of Langruth by Rev. J. Fredriksson on Sunday, May 20th: Noreita Buchan, Victoria Hildibrand, Lily Wilson, Elizabeth Johnson, Vera

Johnson, Roland Johnson, Arthur Johnson, Allan Magnusson, Edgar and Alfred Albrecht. There were 69 communicants at the Lord's Supper.

At the morning service in First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, on June 24th, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry will preach. Invited to this service are the congregations and pastors of other U.L.C.A. congregations in Winnipeg.

The next issue of the "Parish Messenger" will carry an account of the installation of the Pastor into the Gimli Parish on June 13th, and will also tell about the dedication of the beautiful new parsonage.

Sunday, June 10th, the Annual Sunday School service and picnic of Argyle Parish was held at Grund. A large gathering turned out for this annual "joint" service and picnic.

The Women's Missionary Society of Selkirk Church, organized by Rev. and Mrs. N. S. Thorlaksson in March, 1912, is still active. Mrs. E. J. Henrikson has been its secretary from the beginning. They send yearly contributions to Missions and Lutheran World Action.

The following young people were confirmed in the Lutheran Church at Lundar on Whitsunday, May 13th by the pastor, J. Fredriksson: Viola and Gladys Sigurdson, Vivian, Barbara and Nyell Fredriksson, Kathleen Miller, Fjola Sigurdson, Sheridan Yvonne Brandson, Gloria Einarson, Joyce Olafson, Russell Olafson, Bergsveinn Erickson, Oscar Thorgilsson, Norman Nordal, Donald Johnson, David Eyolfson, Raymond McCarthy, Gordon McBeth, and John Breckman. There were 46 communicants at the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, June 3rd, was Confirmation Day, and membership service at Blaine Church. Names are not available at press time, but there were three confirmands and over 10 new adult members received.

At Arnes a Saturday Church School has been organized which meets regularly at 10 a.m. In connection with this school catechetical training is offered to the children by the pastor, H. S. Sigmar. There are two confirmation classes in preparation at Arnes, one to be confirmed this fall and the other, next spring. A Junior Choir meets for practise after each Saturday session, preparing for English services

An "Old Timer's Goodwill Dinner" was sponsored by the deacons of First Lutheran Church recently. About a hundred dinners were served to the "old timers" present, and another fifty were taken to shut-ins in various parts of the city. Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Arni Eggertson, K.C., presided.

May 24th was celebrated with a festive service in both Icelandic and English languages in the Hecla Lutheran Church on Big Island. The night before a very well attended youth rally was held in the community hall; and a class of 12 confirmands was organized. During his visit there, Pastor Sigmar noted the striking effect that isolation has in enhancing and increasing the natural warm hearted hospitality of the Icelandic people.

A "Teaching Clinic" to diagnose and treat "Sick" methods of teaching was held May 31st in First Lutheran Church. It was conducted by the Rev. L. M. Reese of Philadelphia, and Miss E. Gillstrom of Saskatoon. They are under the sponsorship of the Parish and Church School Board of our U.L.C.A. Similar clinics were held in Lundar, Langruth, Gimli, Arborg and Mountain.

The Riverton Lutheran Church has asked the Gimli pastor to conduct monthly services for them until a permanent pastor is secured in that Parish. He has been pleased to do that and has been encouraged by the good attendance and excellent choir.

Confirmed in First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, on Whitsunday were: Ethel Bailey, Vilhelmina Bergman, Judith Bjarnason, Marlene McCall, Eileen Eyjolfson, Lara Thorgrimson, Gordon Bowley, and Kenneth Johnson.

Our Treasurer's Pre-Convention Report

(May 31st, 1951)

RECEIVED FROM:	Synod Dues	Missions (ULCA)	LWA	Parish Messenger
St. Paul's (Minneota)	$ 56.00	$203.00	$	$ 10.00
Vesturheims (Minneota)	28.00	100.00	35.00	.....
Lincoln (Minneota)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Vikur (North Dakota)	50.00	.....	.....	10.00
Vidalin (North Dakota)	107.00	140.50	21.00	10.00
Pjeturs (North Dakota)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fjalla (North Dakota)	20.00	66.00	.....	.....
Hallson (North Dakota)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Melankton (North Dakota)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gudbrands (Brown)	25.00	.....	.....	.....
Furudals (Piney)	.....	.....	.....	.....
First Lutheran, Winnipeg	260.00	329.08	130.92	100.00
Selkirk Lutheran	100.00	182.42	105.10	20.00
Gimli Lutheran	75.00	.....	.....	20.00
Arnes	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mikleyar	44.00	4.50	.....	.....
Vidines	20.00	25.00	.....	.....
Ardals (Arborg)	100.00	.....	25.00	.....
Braedra	.....	.....	.....	.....
Breidavikur	.....	.....	.....	.....
Geysir	50.00	.....	.....	.....
Vidir	23.00	36.00	.....	10.00
Glenboro	85.00	150.00	82.58	10.00
Baldur	41.00	100.50	111.30	10.00
Grund	25.00	67.00	28.30	21.00
Bru	40.00	135.00	112.63	10.00
Lundar	38.00	20.00	.....	10.00
Betel (Silver Bay)	25.00	.....	.....	.....
Langruth	45.00	172.00	25.00	20.00
Concordia (Churchbridge, Sask.)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Logberg	10.00	.....	.....	.....
Thingvellanylendu	8.00	.....	.....	.....
Calvary (Seattle)	45.00	127.50	100.00	.....
Blaine (Wash.)	33.00	25.00	25.00	10.00
Trinity (Wash.)	10.00	27.00	.....	5.00
Vancouver	23.00	156.00	100.00	30.00

More Statistics

Special gifts to Missions (ULCA) include: Mr. J. J. Skagfeld, Mozart, Sask., $10; Chris Bernhoft, Hensel, N.D., $5; Selkirk Lutheran Missionary Society $135. To Lutheran World Action: Dr. R. Marteinsson, $35; Rev. S. Christopherson, $10; George Peterson, Ivanhoe, Minn., $14; Mrs. J. McLeod, South Africa, $5; Rev. O. Thorlaksson (collected) $136; Arborg Ladies Aid, $25; (In some cases the above are credited to the congregations as well).

Received from Christian Higher Education Year Appeal: Minneota Parish, $800; Argyle Parish, $314.50; Langruth congregation, $411; Gudbrands (Brown), $5; Trinity (Pt. Roberts), $10; Calvary, Seattle, $50; Dr. H. Sigmar, $25; Rev. H. S. Sigmar, $25; Rev. E. H. Sigmar, $10.

Receipts for Missions for year: $2,136.40; Receipts for Lutheran World Action, $1,134.43; For CHEY, $1,650.50. Total receipts for all benevolences $4,871.33 (plus late receipt of $50 for CHEY). Total benevolences paid by synod for year: $5,273.47. Advance payment over receipts, $402.14.

It is significant to note that there is a heartening increase in benevolent giving by our congregations to the various causes of our church.

"THE SIGNATURE"

From an Old M.S., by Rannveig K. G. Sigbjornsson

The Lecturer expounded many theories especially in religion and science. He was certain that all the new ideas were right almost all the old ones wrong. Man was the greatest Being in the universe. Man would in time conquer all difficulties of distance and discovery on this earth and elsewhere and thus become the real Ruler of the universe.

"In a short while", he said, "we can sit in any African or Asiatic country comfortable in our traveling outfit and listen to the great masters of Europe in music or eloquence, all the way from Europe or America. We shall also be able to see from that distance, all that we desire to see in drama or whatever else we wish to see on the theatre stage or the world's stage. We shall be able to fly not only between countries, but between stars. We will be able to discover and harness power such as we have never before dreamed of . . . "

When the man of religion mounted the platform, he had this to say. "Great and remarkable matters have been brought forth here tonight. Denials and claims worth noting. I am not here to say it is ALL wrong, but I am here to say that it is FUNDAMENTALLY wrong. We are told Christianity is out of date as accepted and preached by the established Churches of the world and from the Bible. Whoever makes such statement has not looked at his subject from all sides. If Christianity were destructible in this life or in any other life, everything else we know and wish to know worth our while, would fall into a heap of rubble. There would be no one to appreciate its worth and the element that makes us strive for better things, for better knowledge, for better life, would disappear out of our souls . . . "

"But, friends, Christianity is NOT DESTRUCTIBLE. We have seen through history great monarchs and generals of various times and of a various record, march by and be swept off, of the world's stage with claps of thunder or in silent drama, we know the names of many such men. Kingdoms have risen, kingdoms have fallen. We like them or we dislike them. We have also learned about great moral teachers such as Confucius, Socrates, Aesop and others, but not one of them has the power over our souls and our hearts which the One has Who was crucified on Calvary. He lives in the heart and soul of man. He is crowned there. His Kingdom is there. He is and has been, in the heart and soul of ever so many crowned kings and their noble ladies. He is equally so, present in the heart and soul of the humblest worker, be it a man or a woman who has been fortunate enough to learn His name. The name of Jesus Christ has an incomparably greater charm for Christian people than those of famous kings, generals or great leaders of any nature although full acknowledgement is given where due.

AND WHY?

Because in Him there is shown more fullness of God's love than in any one else or anything else humanity has ever known. Because, "He lives who once was dead, He lives my ever living head". Yes, He lives Who shed his blood for you and for me on Golgatha that we might live and the light and grace He sends into the soul of man, is incomparably brighter and more beautiful as well as incomparably stronger than what may come through other sources.

(To be continued)

Sunrise Lutheran Camp Welcomes You!

With the coming of another summer season, Sunrise Camp welcomes the people of our synod to its wonderful facilities for Christian youth training, and its opportunities for recreation, rest, and relaxation. This is the sixth year of full time operation for Sunrise Camp. The ladies of our Lutheran Women's League, an auxilliary of our synod, have accomplished a gigantic and marvelous task in making Sunrise Camp a living reality in the work of our church. The camp is one of the finest of its kind in Western Canada, and it is nothing short of amazing what our women have done in the relatively few years in which they have worked on this splendid project of Christian endeavour.

All congregations are urged to send as many children and young people to the various "camping sessions" as possible. An excellent project for Sunday Schools and Ladies Aids is to help young people to come to camp who are financially unable to do so. The cost for eight days at camp is only $10. The Lutheran Women's League stands ready to assist those who need financial help in paying fees.

Our camp depends to a large extent on the voluntary support of friends. Those wishing to make monetary contributions, either as memorials or otherwise, please send same to Treasurer Mrs. Anna Magnusson, Box 296, Selkirk, Man. To those who are in a position to contribute time or service as leaders or helpers at the camping sessions, please contact the camp director, Mrs. S. Olafsson, Box 701, Selkirk.

The Sunday School Teacher's Association of our synod feels the need of an outdoor "chapel" at camp, and are hereby appealing to all Sunday Schools of synod, and any interested party, to send donations for this worthy project to President Archie McNicholl, 247 Arlington St., Winnipeg. To date $35 has been contributed towards this fund.

And so, Sunrise Camp once again extends to YOU and yours a friendly invitation to come and spend here a period of rest, relaxation, and enjoyment. As will be noted on the schedule, the season has been extended this year to include a period for handicraft, and a week when the camp will be hosts to the adults from the Institute for the Blind. All facilities for various outdoor games, baseball, softball, volleyball, etc., will be ready for your use. A swimming instructor will be on hand. A smooth sandy beach, and the wonderfully warm lake are only a stone's throw from your comfortable dormitory facilities. And again good appetizing meals will be served in the spacious dining hall. Memorial Hall waits in silent dignity to receive you for periods of worship, hymn-singing and meditation on God's Word. Yes, one and all you are invited to Sunrise Lutheran Camp.

Please Register Early in June

Applications may be sent direct to the Camp Director, Mrs. S. Olafsson, Box 701, Selkirk,

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LUTHERAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETS AT LANGRUTH

(Continued from Page 2)

cussed, and at the election of officers, Mrs. Fjola Gray of Winnipeg, was re-elected President of the League. Other members of the Executive committee elected were: Mrs. G. Erlendson, first vice-pres.; Mrs. E. Bjarnason, Langruth, second vice-pres.; Mrs. H. Guttormsson, Winnipeg, recording secretary; Mrs. C. Finnson, Winnipeg, corresponding secretary; Mrs. R. Johannesson and Mrs. H. Bjarnason, Winnipeg, treasurers. Delegates elected to attend the Synod convention in Lundar were Mrs. S. Sigurgeirson, Foam Lake, and Mrs. E. Jonasson, Winnipeg.